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Arches of the Cumberland Chapter (Slade) meets informally, ca President Dell Sasser for details, 606-666-7521 x73559, or (606) 233-8938. or via email (dell.sasser@ktts.edu)

Falls of the Ohio Chapter (Louisville), 9109 Hawthorne Drive, Louisville, KY 40272, meets every third Thursday of each month except Jan, Jul, Aug, & Dec at the Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave, Louisville, 40213. Call President Chris Bidwell at (502) 458-1328 or via email (mach5049@gmail.com).

A Word from the Editor:

Dear Fellow KSNH Members,

I am thrilled to be working on the KSNH quarterly newsletter, and I hope that I will be able to provide you all with an enjoyable read. This will be my first editing endeavor, but I believe that it will be an excellent means of reaching out to current KSNH members and to a new generation of nature lovers. My main goal for this year's newsletter is to have all of you veteran members submit material to me for publication. I would love to see what you guys have to say. I want all KSNH members to feel that this is their newsletter, and that they too can contribute valuable reading material to the group at large. I have had two new and very brave contributors submit their nature poetry to me and I want to encourage all of you to try your hand at writing for the newsletter. I will accept research articles, relevant personal reflections, photos, and even Haikus!

In the spirit of rookie contribution, I'll tell you all a bit about myself. My family and I have been tromping around the beautiful Bluegrass Region for as long as I can remember. I first attended Pine Mountain Settlement School when I was two years old, and ever since that initial night hike Pine Mountain has been my second home. My sister and I had countless secret hideouts along the creeks, and from these fortresses we explored all that we could before dinner time. I am sure that we were infamous among the local crawdad and salamander populations for our insatiable curiosity. It has been far too long since I have splashed through those creeks. I spent the last four years away from Kentucky studying English Literature at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina. Come to think of it, I learned about my future Alma Mater at a Fall Colors Weekend at the Settlement School. After receiving my BA from Warren Wilson, I married my high school sweetheart, the wonderful and supportive James Tooill. We recently moved back to Louisville Kentucky to be closer to our families, and I was able to finally re-connect with the KSNH at their Fall Meeting. Pat Meyer asked for a volunteer to captain the newsletter, and the rest is history. In my spare time I enjoy taking our recently-adopted Beagle mix, Beans, for long walks around Cherokee Park. Please feel free to email me your submissions to the newsletter at: gretchfitzgerald@gmail.com

Thank you all so much for the support!
Gretchen Fitzgerald



Above is a photo of a young Elk that I took while on my honeymoon this summer in Yellowstone National Park. Please send in your nature pictures to me if you would like to see them in the newsletter!

A Few Words from the President



By Jeff D. Foster

Greetings from the Southern Ohio! It seems winter keeps teasing us; giving us brief glimpses of spring time weather, then coming back to remind us it's still winter time. I shouldn't complain, for this is the first winter quarter

in a long time that I have not had any class cancellations because of snow. The blooming of crocuses in our flower beds has me longing for days of spring wildflowers. I couldn't resist the temptation the other day, and I roamed into one of my favorite spots in search of snow trilliums (*Trillium nivale*). Unfortunately, none were popping up yet; however, they should be blooming within the next couple weeks. The snow trilliums and the night-time songs of Spring Peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) are always my true signs that spring is rapidly approaching. Soon, the boys and I will be out on the roads during spring rains "frogging" as they have called it over the years. It has become a family tradition to go out on the first warm rainy nights of spring in search of frogs, toads, and salamanders. We collect specimens that I will use in my classes at the college. After a couple weeks, enough time for students to observe and learn their various characteristics, they will be returned to the road ditches where they were found.

Many of you are aware that each year, KSNH awards scholarships and grants to students conducting research in natural history. When you look at the Mission Statement for the Society it clearly states:

- A. To promote study and interest in natural history and related branches of science.
- B. To encourage research in the field, in the laboratory, and through book, periodicals, monographs and other literature.

An issue that has concerned me over the past few years is the reduction in interest in natural history related degrees. It seems that the "hot topics" in biology today are Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering. I feel that our scholarships and grants program is one of the greatest ways that we fulfill our mission statement and potentially increase interest in natural history related research. As an individual who pursued degrees in Ecology and Field Biology, I know the impact that grants like ours can make for students. Recently it has been getting difficult to fully fund our grants program due to a number of different issues. I would like to urge all members of KSNH to consider making a donation to our scholarships/grants program. Check out the Grants Program area of the KSNH website to see information concerning past recipients and their research topics. KSNH is a fully non-profit 501-C3 corporation and all donations to the scholarship/grant fund are fully tax deductible under law. Please consider making a donation and truly supporting natural history research in Kentucky!

Our Spring Conference in the Shepherdsville area is rapidly approaching (April 20 – 22) and an incredible agenda for the weekend is now available for review. Our officers and board members have put together a great list of field trips to various areas of Bernheim Forest, Pine Creek Barrens Preserve, Fort Duffield, Jefferson Memorial Forest, and Knobs State Forest. It will be a challenge to decide which of the trips to attend. I want to go on them all. If you have not registered for the conference yet, or made your hotel reservations, please do so soon!! It is going to be a great weekend and I am looking forward to seeing all of you there!!

Falls of the Ohio Chapter News:

By Chris Bidwell

The Spring Conference will be here before you know it. A lot of hard work and planning has been undertaken to make this a great event. There will be lots of speakers to hear and activities to attend. With this conference in our backyard I hope for a great turnout. Concerning the Falls Chapter monthly meetings, there are some great topics, speakers, and outings already up on our web page. Speakers and topics will also be placed in the Courier Journal in hopes of attracting new faces and potential members. Thanks to Barry for his great work the last five years. Welcome to Gretchen and thanks for assuming such an under-appreciated role in our organization. Please email me at mach5049@gmail.com or call me at 502-896-4834 if you have suggestions, questions or know of any of our KSNH family who is ill or injured and needs our best wishes and prayers. Let's make 2012 a banner KSNH year. Chris Bidwell, President Falls of the Ohio Chapter



Here, our very own Chapter President, Chris Bidwell, leads the Spring Nature Outing in Cherokee Park. On this well-attended walk, nature enthusiasts learned how to identify trees during the winter months. It was a great hike. Thanks Chris!

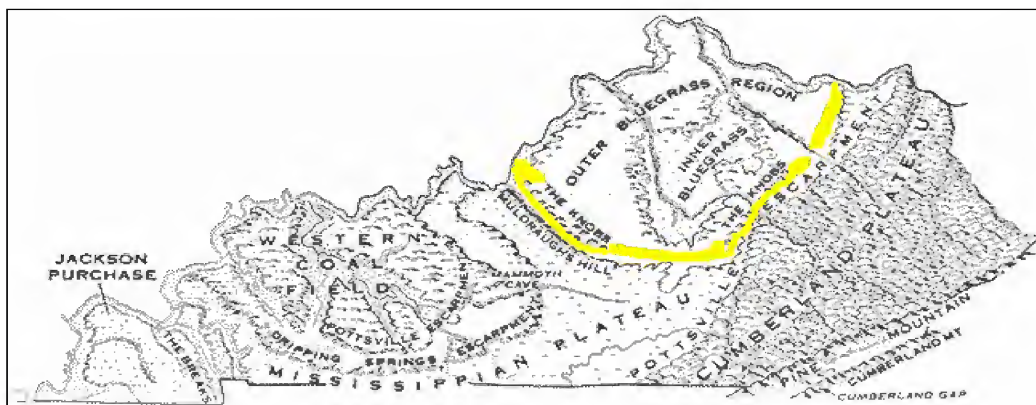
Photo courtesy of Susan Wilson

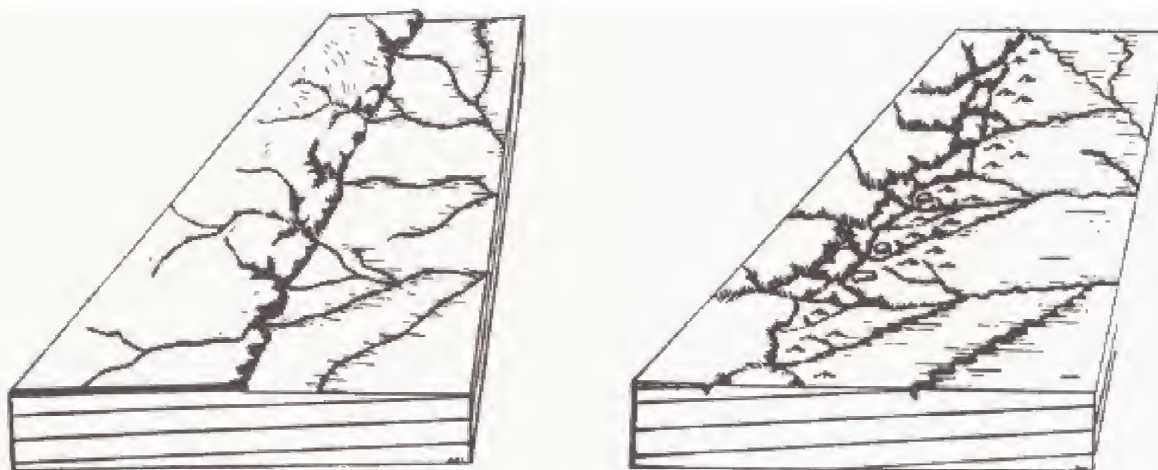
The Knobs of Kentucky

By Berl Meyer

Much of our KSNH spring conference will be held the physiographic province of Kentucky called the Knobs.

The Knobs region in its typical development is a narrow belt of country surrounding the Blue Grass. It is characterized by the presence of conical knobs, which are erosion remnants of the upland behind Muldraugh's Hill on the west and south, and the Pottsville Escarpment on the east. The region of the dissected border of these uplands is commonly included in the Knobs until a definite upland has been attained. In their characteristic development they rise from the level of the Lexington plain. Similar knob-like erosion remnants, which front the other escarpments in the state, have not received recognition as distinct physiographic units. Geologically it is the region of the shale country between the limestone country of the Blue Grass and the bordering Pennyroyal and Cumberland Plateaus. Where the Silurian-Mid-Devonian section is mainly limestone the region is included in the Blue Grass. Where largely shale, as east of the Cincinnati Arch, it is allied with the Knobs.





FIGS. 1,2. Diagrams illustrating the formation of Knobs (Pauline Young).

FIG. 1 (left). Muldraugh's Hill (or Pottsville Escarpment) with portions of the upland partly isolated by valley development.

FIG. 2 (right). Knobs in the various stages of development, from flat-topped portions of the upland recently isolated from the main area, to typical conical knobs, earlier isolated and with the cap rock gone.

Rocks

The geologic story of the area around Paroquet Springs Conference Center began more than 400 million years ago when the area was covered by great bodies of water or seas which lasted more than 100 million years. During this period various muds, sands, shell fragments, and lime oozes accumulated on the ocean bottoms much as they do today. Mud became clay and shale. Loose sand and silt became sandstone and siltstone. Shells, shell fragments, lime oozes, and chemical lime precipitates became limestone.

Rocks in this area are layered, like a cake. The lowest layer is the oldest (Ordovician) whereas younger rocks (Mississippian) cap the hills and ridges. Ordovician limestones are found only in a few spots in remote areas on the eastern edge of the Bernheim Area. Silurian limestones and dolomites are the oldest rocks visible in the areas most frequently visited.

The variety of rock types found in the Area suggests that the sediments were deposited under different conditions or environments. The limestones in the valleys and near the base of the hills were formed when warm, shallow sea water covered the region. The ocean bottom was inhabited by myriads of sea clams, corals, snails, and other critters. Some of the shell and skeletal remains are preserved in the limestone rocks for us to see today.

Later the sea floor became covered with an organic, black muck. This muck is now a hard black shale which geologists call "New Albany Shale" for the excellent exposures along the Ohio River near that Indiana city. In the vicinity of Bernheim Area, it can be seen in numerous road cuts and also in the bed of Slate Run in the Area itself. Fossil remains of the earliest known trees are found in this formation.

Layers of shale and siltstone over the black shale formation tell us that the sea in which these sediments were deposited was muddy. Some geologists consider these rocks to have been part of a great delta, formed by sediment carried by ancient rivers and streams from uplands many miles to the northeast and deposited in the Mississippian Sea. Peculiar markings on some of the slabs of siltstones are indications of water currents and sea-bottom life.

These are not "just rocks" because several of them have special significance. For example, the Laurel Dolomite (Silurian), which was formed during the same geologic period as many of the ancient coral reefs, possesses characteristics which make it an excellent reservoir rock for some of nature's fluids. In the Bardstown area many wells which tap this geologic formation yield ground water for domestic and livestock purposes, whereas in Green County, Kentucky, where it is much deeper and in a different geologic situation, the Laurel Dolomite was the "pay zone" for the prolific Greensburg oil pool which yielded more than 18 million barrels of crude oil between 1958 and 1962. The stone is also quarried for use in road construction. A conspicuous spring zone occurs near the base of this

formation throughout the outcrop area. The presence of these springs was one of the reasons the distilling industry was originally attracted to this part of Kentucky.

The black New Albany Shale, where deeply buried, has produced natural gas in several areas in Kentucky and southern Indiana. Experimental work has indicated that this same shale when “cooked” yields 10 to 20 gallons of oil per ton of shale. While this is not a sufficient quantity of oil to be considered commercial at the present time, it may represent a reserve of an important mineral fuel for some time in the future.

The soft gray and green shales overlying the New Albany Shale are used in several localities for the manufacture of structural clay products. A plant in northern Bullitt County subjects the raw shale to rapid heating to produce a lightweight aggregate for use in concrete blocks and other construction purposes and as a mulch. A plant in Jefferson County uses a similar deposit of shale for the manufacture of bricks used for facing buildings and homes. Those hard, globular bodies of silica called geodes are of interest to many rock and mineral collectors, amateur and professional alike. They are commonly found embedded in Mississippian limestone ledges or accumulated in stream beds in and near the Knobs areas. Usually well-formed clear quartz crystals line the inside of the hollow geodes, but they may contain a variety of minerals. More than a dozen different minerals have been reported from Kentucky geodes; geodes filled with gypsum are common in adjacent Hardin County. Of historic interest are the old iron ore “diggings” on the hillside northeast of the mouth of Wildcat Hollow. The ore obtained from this small mining operation occurs in the lower Mississippian shales as siderite (an iron carbonate mineral) which weathers out as limonite. The siderite concretions were probably formed by water which soaked through the rock and deposited lime and iron compounds in concentric layers around a fossil or mineral fragment. The reddish-brown concretions or nodules were exposed when streams cut through the layers of rock containing them. The ore from the locality was hauled to Bellemont (Belmont) furnace which was situated about a mile east of the present community of Belmont, southwest of Bernheim Area. Limonite is a very low grade ore. For this reason, and because it is present only in small tonnages in the area, it could not support much of an iron industry. Only an inconspicuous scar on a hillside indicates that mining took place in Shepherdsville Area approximately a century ago.

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SHUMARD OAK – *Quercus shumardii* (Buckley)

By Chris Bidwell

This stately oak was named in honor of Dr. Benjamin Franklin Shumard (1820-1869) by Samuel Botsford Buckley (1809-1884), a Texas state geologist and naturalist. Buckley has a mountain in North Carolina, a genus (*Buckleya*) and ironically a variant of the Shumard oak (*Shumard texana-buckleyi*) (Ashe) that Buckley discovered in central Texas all named in his honor. Dr. Benjamin Shumard, born in Pennsylvania, had several Kentucky connections. He received his medical degree in Louisville in 1843 and practiced for about a year in Hodgenville where his interests in nature, paleontology, and geology developed. Having moved back to Louisville by 1846, he gave up medicine to devote his time completely to geology and natural history. In 1847 Dr. Shumard and another famous doctor/naturalist Lunsford Yandell (father of famous Kentucky sculptor Enid Yandell) published “The Geology of Kentucky”. In 1852 Dr. Shumard married a Louisville girl, Miss E. M. Allen.

The native perennial Shumard oak is a member of the red oak group having pointed lobes much like arrow heads. It is monoecious with tiny, almost unnoticeable, yellow female flowers that develop in March and April and small male flowers that are quite showy in catkins of up to 6 inches long on the same tree. The fertilized female flowers develop into acorns around September to October. It takes at least 2 years to fully develop the mature acorn. Shumards do not produce acorns until they are 25 years old, and full nut production does not occur until 50 years old plus. Shumard acorns, 1-2 on a stalk, are brown, dry, hard, oval-shaped, 0.5-1 inch long with a flattened-shallow cup that covers about 1/4th of the acorn body. Excellent crop production occurs every 2-3 years. They have an outstanding germination rate, and they are one of the faster growing oaks. Shumard leaves are elliptical, alternate, simple, and deciduous and up to 8 inches long and 5 inches wide and have 5-9 pointed lobes which are often bristle tipped. Sinuses, the spaces between the lobes, are cut up to 3/4 the distance to the midrib. Sinuses are rounded at the opening and at the bottom. Lovely dark green color prevails during most of the year. By fall Shumard leaves can be a wide range of colors: brown, tan, various shades of shiny yellow, gold, and orange, and occasionally red to maroon colors that add a vibrant fall/winter display. The widest part of the leaf is across the middle lobes. Brown to red hairy tufts, which are a key tree identifier, are present on the leaves’ underneath vein axils.

As a member of the red oak group, Shumards can reach over 90 feet in height typically with a single trunk. An open, rounded canopy can reach over 60 feet across. Younger Shumards have smooth, light gray bark which is highly reflective. As the tree matures the bark turns dark gray and becomes furrowed. Buttresses may form on larger trees especially near water. White blotches may also canvass the bark. Lower branches are horizontal while upper branches become vertical – Shumard branches do not droop. The bark, relatively thin, is easily damaged by mechanical trauma.

Shumards prefer full sun, well-drained, moist, acidic, limestone soils which can be made up of clay, loam and sand – usually found under 500 feet in elevation. A lowland tree, they will tolerate alkaline-wet soils for short periods. Older trees are tolerant of drought, ozone, fire, salt, cold, and high winds. They are hardy in zones 5-9. Associated with bottom lands and small streams, Shumards tend to be scattered sparsely among other hardwoods – it adapts to most soils that are well drained. Shumards are found throughout the Commonwealth.

The red oak group can be difficult to identify species by leaf pattern but also due to their hybridization. Shumards, which are often mingled in with the black and the red oak, frequently hybridize with them and develop leaf and bark characteristics which overlap. A pure Shumard can be identified by examining the base of the limb where the trunk bark pattern will flow/merge seamlessly through these junction nodes. Both the black and the red oak have raised bark circling the limb/trunk junctions. Two other Shumard oak identifiers are the red to brown hairy tufts in the leaf's underside leaf axils and the gray/white to yellow/reddish bronze leaf buds. Most species in the red oak group have reddish buds. Shumard buds have small projecting hairs that are not present in other red oak species. By examining leaf, bark, acorns, buds, and habitat one should find Shumards one of the easier red oaks to identify.

Common names are Shumard oak, Shumard's oak, Shumard Red Oak, southern red oak, swamp oak, swamp red oak, schneck oak, and spotted oak. Propagation is by seeding especially by the stashing habits of squirrels and blue jays. Shumard oak has many uses. Planted on 30-40 centers it will form a closed canopy over a 2-lane avenue in about 20 years. Being shade, disease, pest, salt, high wind, heat, and cold intolerant it is a great shade and landscaping tree. A durable, closed grained flexible wood, it is used for furniture, flooring, trim, decorative molding, cabinetry, ship building, and whiskey or wine barrels. An early ink was made from the bark's tannin. Its use as an ornamental tree is increasing due to its low maintenance and durability. The acorns are a food source to numerous songbirds, turkeys, quail, wood ducks, waterfowl, deer, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, various rodents, chipmunks, gophers, feral hogs, and kiwis! Leaves and twigs serve as browse for deer and elk. Shumard is an excellent shelter for numerous birds, mammals, and insects. It is a host tree for several lepidoptera: Peigler's buck moth, several species of hairstreaks and Horace's dusky wing butterflies.

The acorns, once leached (boiled several times) of their bitter tannin content, can be ground into flour or roasted as a coffee substitute, or eaten whole. Acorns can be frozen and stored. Shumard's acorns and leaves have a low toxicity, however if eaten raw or not properly leached prior to consumption – stomach pain, cramps, constipation, bloody diarrhea, excessive thirst and urination may develop.

The Shumard oak is fairly resistant to diseases and pests. Usually no diseases are serious. Canker, leaf blisters, numerous fungi causing leaf spots, powdery mildew are common minor ailments. Oak wilt, however, is a fatal fungal disease that requires affected oaks to be cut down and destroyed as it is readily spread by roots, insects, and pruning tools. In Kentucky red oak is most susceptible to oak wilt while rare in Shumards. Oak wilt invades the water conducting vessels and plugs the trees to such an extent that the oak literally dehydrates. Young oaks and severely infected older oaks can die in as little as 3 months. Another fatal fungal disease is shoestring root rot which attacks the roots and spreads upward killing the cambium growth layers resulting in the tree's death. As with oak wilt, affected trees must be downed and destroyed. There is no practical cure for either of the fatal fungal diseases.

Pests are usually not a serious threat to Shumards. Galls from several insects, scales, aphids, various caterpillars, twig pruners, lace bugs, and leaf miners are common nuisances that pose no serious threat except for cosmetic concerns. Tree borers can, however, severely stress newly planted or younger trees. The eastern tent caterpillars can cause considerable foliage loss resulting in tree weakening and death. Pruning while infestation is small, is a very effective control. The asian or gypsy moth caterpillar, introduced to the United States in 1868 to start silk farms, are particularly destructive to all oaks – again by causing severe defoliation.

Shumard oak is in the Fagus (Fagaceae or beech) family which includes beech, oaks, and some chestnuts. Fagus is from the Greek Phegos or Phagos meaning “to eat” – referring to the edible nuts/acorns of these trees. The

Shumards Genus name, *Quercus*, is Latin for oak. The species name, *Shumardii*, is in honor of Dr. Benjamin Shumard previously mentioned. Incidentally the word acorn is not derived from oak and corn. It comes from Old English “aecern” meaning berry or fruit. The genus *Acer* (maples) is derived from this same Old English root. The word oak origin is somewhat debatable. Most texts cite the Old English “ac” or Middle English “ook” as its source.

The “oak” tree is our national tree. Just as the “goldenrod” is the Kentucky state flower with no one species taking the sole honor, so it is with the “oak” being our national tree. The largest Shumard oak currently is in the Overton Park Forest in Memphis, TN. It is 190 feet tall with an eighty-eight foot canopy spread. It has a 249 inch circumference. Shumard oak is threatened in Maryland and endangered in Pennsylvania primarily due to habitat loss to development.

Oaks are noted for their historical, mythical, ritual, and folklore usages and beliefs. Shumard oak was one of the oaks that the Druids of Europe used to gather under to hold their many secret rituals. Idols from oak were used for their magic ceremonies. Witches also are supposed to perform rituals beneath oaks. It is believed, ironically, that since oaks are so durable, long-lived, and strong that they offer protection from evil magic. Two oak twigs bound together by a red cord in the form of a cross is hung in the house as a safeguard. Crucifixes are often made of oak - possibly a connection to this belief. Acorns placed in a window sill are believed to protect a home/dwelling from lightning strikes. Since oak was dedicated to Thor, the god of thunder, it is believed that oaks could not be struck by lightning. Acorn shaped wooden knobs may have also been created to protect a building from natural disaster/lightning. An acorn or a piece of one carried on you protects the bearer from harm. Immortality, youthfulness, protection from disease/pain can also be guaranteed by carrying an acorn on your person. Need money? Planting an acorn in the dark of the moon will ensure riches in the near future. Lastly, suffering from erectile dysfunction or having trouble getting pregnant? Carry an acorn with you - you never know! The list of folklore beliefs concerning oaks fills volumes. Any season is a great time to get out to view the Shumard oak. A great specimen of this wonderful tree can be found on the summit of Iroquois Park. It is a great hike to get up there to see this tree and get a wonderful clear view of Louisville.

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Notes from the Nature Nut

By: W.H. (Wally) Roberts

“Special Moments in Time: The Woodcock Walk”

In December of 1986, Karen and I moved from my old home place in Fern Creek to Illinois Avenue about 200 yards east of the Louisville Nature Center. The Beargrass Creek State Nature Preserve (BCSNP) had been established years before, but the Louisville Nature Center (LNC) was in its infancy. We stumbled upon our new home quite by accident and its proximity to LNC helped us decide to make the move. For the next 17 years we never regretted the decision and our lives centered around activities at LNC and the Louisville Zoo. The special friends and memories we made continue to enrich our lives. “The Woodcock Walk”, as I refer to it, is a unique memory that truly represents a special moment in time.

One early warm spring in the late 1980's, Karen and I and our black lab, Coal, started taking hikes after supper. On one especially nice evening, we were sitting on a swing at the edge of Joe Creason Park when we first noticed strange sounds coming from the woodland edge at BCSNP. The sounds were peent...peent...peent followed by a whirling sound. An investigation revealed Woodcocks silhouetted against the western twilight doing their mating display flights. It was a first for Karen, and I had previously observed the birds only a few times.

While sharing a description of our experience with Ken and Margie Conard and Len and Jan Stahlgren, they became excited about the possibility of hearing and seeing the birds at close range. Karen and I watched the weather forecasts and invited both couples over to our house on what we thought would be a perfect evening for a Woodcock walk. We left our house a little before sunset and walked the short distance down the road into Joe Creason Park near the tennis courts.

As all of us wanted a close view of Woodcocks, I reminded everyone to be as quiet and patient as possible. When we reached the open field near the old quonset hut that LNC used as a nature center, we heard the first calls and were treated to mating flight displays about 50 yards away to the west. As darkness closed in, the calling and flights subsided. I mentioned that the birds usually return to the edge of the woods in a small group about that time of day. We decided to approach the area slowly and quietly. The old quonset hut had a security light on the north side of the building that we feared would reveal our position to the Woodcocks. In reality, the security light provided enough illumination to create special memories for us. As we stood quietly, we could hear several birds coming toward us on the ground. We finally saw them, ten to twelve in number, and so interested in finding and impressing a mate that they never noticed us. When they were within flushing range, I kicked with my foot and all took flight around us...one so close that its wing beats knocked my cap off. All of us were startled, but Margie squealed with glee as she jumped up and down with her hands planted on my shoulders. After our unique venture, we returned to our house for refreshments.

This special experience led me to initiate two Woodcock walks each spring at LNC. Although we occasionally encountered a few Woodcocks on the walks, we were never again able to find the large numbers at such close range that made that first Woodcock walk “A Special Moment in Time”.

Brave New Contributors to the KSNH Newsletter:

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Nathan Wilson, Pat Berla, and Jamie Tooill for their amazing contributions to this season's newsletter. Keep the good stuff coming you guys!



Above is a photo from first-time contributor **Nathan Wilson**! Thank you Nathan for such a lovely picture, and thank you for showing us all what you see in the great outdoors!

Pat Berla decided to share her poetry with us this month. After seeing Sandhill Cranes on our February outing, I found this Haiku to be just perfect for the spring edition. Thank you so much Pat for your beautiful words.

Wide-winged shadows darken upturned eyes:

three Sandhill Cranes

sail windswept skies.



<http://richardsbirdblog.com/2010/08/05/sandhill-crane-festival/>

James Tooill wrote a wonderful poem after learning how to identify the Kentucky Coffee Tree on the February Tree Identification Hike.

Gymnocladus Dioicus: An Impression

The Kentucky Coffee Tree
Stood about 19 meters high (in the typical range)
In this Kentucky boy's backyard
Its 6-9 seeds in every pod once brewed by pioneers as a coffee substitute
A dangerous switch, as it was poisonous

The Genus Gymnocladus is of Greek origin
Naked branches in the early fall
Apparently recalling naked Greek gymnasts
Socrates might have enjoyed the new philosophy of Parisian coffeehouses
And being no stranger to poisonous drink
Could have had a cup of the dangerous Kentucky java

Leguminous pods six to ten inches long
With sickly-sweet pulp and reddish brown exterior
Littering the ground just a little too close
Too close to the football game taking place
A young Mr. fakes right then left
And ducks right out of his dad's grasp
Only to find a tall dark defender
Ash-gray fissured bark halting the action
For an injury timeout: boy out cold on the grass and pods

Impressions aren't always immediate
Spring is slow to change the Kentucky Coffee Tree
Known to remain leafless until late in the season
Winter Buds being fully there, but barely perceptible
And it'll be 8 years before I start learning Greek
12 before I make a living roasting coffee
And 15 before I make it back to Kentucky.

Welcome New KSNH Members!

Sean Murphy

Bill Franck

Alyssa Underwood

Ray Eaton

KSNH SPRING CONFERENCE 2012

Shepherdsville, KY – Paroquet Springs Conference Center and Comfort Inn and Suites

Field trips and events all start at Paroquet Springs Conference Center unless otherwise noted. If you are going into Bernheim for an event, tell them at the entrance gate that you are a member of Kentucky Society of Natural History to get in FREE.

Registration – 3 to 5 pm at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center and again from 6:30 to 7:30.

AGENDA

Friday, April 20

7:30 pm Wren Smith, Bernheim Naturalist/Interpreter, KSNH Naturalist of the Year 2010 will speak on **“Foraging for Food and Fun – Eat a Weed!”**

Susan Wilson, KSNH Photography Coordinator will present **KSNH Photos**

Saturday, April 21

9 am – 4 pm Berl Meyer, Board Member at Large KSNH, Geologist will lead an expedition: **“Civil War – Nature Adventure to Fort Duffield and Elizabethtown”** - The group will car pool to Fort Duffield (West Point, KY), the state’s largest and best preserved Civil War earthen fortification. A history of the fort and viewing of common wildflowers of the Knobs will be discussed. Lunch will be at Back Home Restaurant in Elizabethtown, KY. The next stop will be E-Town Nature Park where Freeman Creek flows into Freeman Lake. The Lincoln Heritage House, crafted in part by Abraham Lincoln’s father, Thomas, and a viewing of wildflowers and waterfowl will be discussed there. A final stop will be at the Helm Cemetery – also in E-Town- to pay respects to the Helms, in particular Ben Hardin Helm. **Rated – Easy**

9 am – noon Tara Littlefield, botanist Kentucky State Nature Preserves will lead an expedition: **Field trip to Pine Creek Barrens Preserve in Bullitt County**, which is the site of several threatened wildflowers and plants including: Northern Dropseed, glade cress, and Eggleston’s or glade violet. **Rated – Easy**

9am – noon Larry Hilton, Senior Naturalist for Metro Parks, head of the volunteer trail ranger group and trails, and assistant on the natural areas management team will lead an expedition: **Car-pool Trip to Jefferson County Memorial Forest Selected Sites**. An overall history and viewing will be undertaken. Frequent short stops and easy trail walks to discuss the forest will also be employed. **Rated – Easy**

OPEN TO KSNH MEMBERS

9 am – 1 pm Wren Smith will be leading a Bernheim Public Program called **“Picnic With the Wildflowers”**. Cost is \$10.00. Advanced registration is required if you desire to attend this program (502-955-8512). It is capped at 25 participants. Pack a lunch. **Rated – Easy**

Lunch 12:00 – 1:30 on your own

1:30 – 4:30 pm Andrew Berry, Bernheim Forest Manager will be leading an expedition: **Field Trip to Wilson Creek and Other Restoration Sites at Bernheim Forest**. Spring wildflowers and seldom-visited portions of the forest will be seen. Meet at Bernheim’s Visitor Center. **Rated – Moderate**

1:30 – 4:30 pm Robert Bridges, Bernheim Volunteer Naturalist/hiker will lead an expedition: **Field Trip on the Sun and Shade Trail and to Parts of Nevin Lake at Bernheim Forest**. Flora and local history and interesting trees/shrubs will be discussed. **Rated – Easy to Slightly Moderate**

1:30 – 4:30 pm Chris Bidwell, VP KSNH and President of Falls of the Ohio chapter and Susan Wilson, Photography coordinator for KSNH – both amateur naturalists and nature photographers will lead an expedition: **Field Trip to the Knobs State Forest Adjacent to Bernheim**. A leisurely stroll with flora identification, history of the area, and nature photography tips/discussions/demonstrations will be included on this walk through the state’s latest preserved forest of 1500 acres. **Rated – Easy to Slightly Moderate**

Dinner on your own

7:30 pm **Saturday night program** - Recap of Saturday's events

Joyce Bender, Nature Preserves and Natural Areas Branch Manager, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission will speak on **"Stories from a Kentucky Land Steward"**.

Wally Roberts will present the Naturalist of the Year award for 2011.

Sunday, April 22

9 – 11 am Chris Bidwell and Susan Wilson will lead an expedition: **A Stroll Along Rocky Run Trail at Bernheim Forest**. This is one of the most spectacular trails for Spring wildflowers. Nature photography tips will be part of the stroll. **Rated – Easy to Slightly Moderate**

9 – 11 am Chris Knopf, Bernheim Volunteer Naturalist will lead an expedition: **A "Dragonfly/Damselfly Search" at Lake Nevin in Bernheim Forest**. Participants will view, discuss, and identify numerous Odonata members. **Rated - Easy**

Remember: Bring a camera, binoculars, water to all outings. Bring your KSNH green wallets to the Conference. Most events will address many nature topics/sightings. Be prepared for Fun and Facts!

Any questions or comments please contact Chris Bidwell (502-896-4834) or e-mail mach5049@gmail.com Please make every effort to attend and show your support for KSNH.



Earthworks located at Fort Duffield
Photo: <http://www.armchairgeneral.com>

Formed 1939,



Kentucky Naturalist News

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Website: <http://www.ksnh.org>

Officers 2010 through 2012

President: Jeff Foster (jfoster@sscc.edu)
Vice Pres.: Chris Bidwell (mach5049@gmail.com)
[502-896-4834](tel:502-896-4834).
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Pat Meyer (treasurer@ksnh.org)
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Fitzgerald (gretchfitzgerald@gmail.com)
Past Pres.: Zeb Weese:
webmaster: Dave Luzader (webmaster@ksnh.org)

Coordinators 2010 through 2012

Environmental Ed.: Larry Hilton (l.hilton@insighthbb.com)
Field Trips: James Kiser (james.kiser@stantec.com)
Grants: Wally Roberts (waldonroberts@bellsouth.net)
Herpetology: John MacGregor (john.macgregor@ky.gov)
Hospitality: Cynthia Payne (cpayne_ksnh@yahoo.com)
Mammalogy: Mark Gumbert (mwgumbert@copperheadconsulting.com)
Naturalist of the Year: Wally Roberts/Joe Settles
Nature Photography: Susan Wilson (susanfltrn@yahoo.com)
Youth Activities: Daniel Foster (jdfo01@moreheadstate.edu)

Board Members at Large:

Berl Meyer (geology@ksnh.org)
Pat Molloy

Affiliated Chapters

Arches of the Cumberland Chapter (Slade) meets informally, call President Dell Sasser for details, 606-666-7521 x73559, or (606) 233-8938. or via email (dell.sasser@ktcs.edu)

Falls of the Ohio Chapter (Louisville), 9109 Hawthorne Drive, Louisville, KY 40272, meets every third Thursday of each month except Jan, Jul, Aug, & Dec at the Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave, Louisville, 40213. Call President Chris Bidwell at (502) 458-1328 or via email (mach5049@gmail.com).

A Word from the Editor:

Dear Fellow KSNH Members,

This summer has been a busy one for me and for my husband Jamie. Our first major change since the weather began to warm was the purchase of our first home at the end of May. We moved all of our earthly belongings into a lovely two bedroom home located just behind the Louisville Zoo. As the summer rose to a slow simmer, we acquired two lovely Brahma Hens, and they provided us with endless entertainment and a bounty of delicious eggs. Unfortunately as the summer skipped boil and proceeded directly to deep-fry, we lost both Mina and Lucy to the 107 degree heat. We mourned their loss, and celebrated their lives with a delicious omelet made with the last of their eggs. After the tragic loss of our chickens, the summer became one extremely hot blur. Were it not for our intrepid little Beagle mix, I don't think that I would have ever willingly opened the door. Beans ensured that we made it out into the steaming urban jungle at least once a day. In fact, he taught me several valuable lessons this summer. Firstly, he taught me that despite the weather, it is always worth it to take a short walk for the sake of your sanity. Our walks calmed and centered me during a busy summer of several job changes, stressful hail-related home insurance issues, and constant movement from mornings slinging coffee to evenings booking beds at the hospital, to Friendship, Ohio, to Asheville, North Carolina and back home again. Secondly, Beans taught me the art of taking a summer stroll. I wanted to get it over with as soon as it had begun. Beans, however, knew that the secret to walking through a solid wall of heat is to pull over into the shade as often as possible and lay in the cool grass. Initially I found this habit of constantly stopping to drool in the grass rather annoying. However, as the summer went on, I began to notice all of the things I would have missed had I continued to race through our neighborhood with my mind solely focused on the sweet relief of air conditioning. In my shaded pauses I heard the excited squeals of the neighborhood children as they ran through lukewarm sprinklers. I heard the muffled roars of the animatronic dinosaurs on exhibit at the zoo this summer, I heard the monkeys chatter a warning of each impending storm, and I watched as enormous birds of prey circled the Louisville Nature center. Thirdly, and most importantly, Beans has taught me by example that life is just plain better when you wake up each day genuinely excited to be alive. The sting of sweat dripping into your eyes is quickly forgotten when you begin exploring your neighborhood rather than plowing through it in a daze. It still can, and should, be exciting to smell freshly cut grass even though it makes you sneeze, to discover tiny wildflowers peeping out of the brambles of Joe Creason Park, and to catch one's foot on a particularly well-camouflaged storm drain only to discover that 5 tiny ducklings are huddled together at the bottom patiently awaiting the return of their mother with their lunch. And finally, life is always better when you squeeze a walk into each afternoon. Thank you Beans for reminding me that the beauty and complexity of the natural world is one of the most powerful tonics for the soul. We must not ignore this glorious gift we have been given, no matter how busy our lives become.



“Triumph”

A truly lovely summer-time picture taken by the editor’s Sister-in-Law, Alycia Tooill, on our family vacation to Red River Gorge.

A Few Words From the President

By: Jeff Foster

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer season. The amazing palette of spring wildflowers has been slowly replaced by the wildflowers of summer. Even though summer’s wildflowers are as not as abundant as spring’s, there are still many amazing specimens to find. The bright orange of butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) has been catching my eye along the roadways. Here in Adams County, Ohio, the heat-loving prairie plants are beginning to steal the show. Multiple species of Blazing Star (*Liatrus sp.*), Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), and Bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*) are all in full bloom.

I am currently in the process of putting together the agenda for our Fall Conference in the Morehead region. I consider Morehead to be my second home, and I am really looking forward to having all of you explore the rich natural heritage of the area. When you are surrounded by the Cumberland



Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest you don't have to travel very far out of town to be in the heart of the forest. Originally established as the Cumberland National Forest in 1937, the 708,000 acre forest was renamed to honor Kentucky's pioneer hero in 1966. *Features of the National Forest in the Morehead area include: Ambergly and Lockegee Rocks, Clear Creek Iron Furnace, and Cave Run Lake.*

Cave Run Lake was constructed on the Licking River in 1969. The 8,270 acre lake is almost entirely within the boundaries of the Daniel Boone National Forest. During graduate school, I had the privilege of working as an Interpretive Specialist for the US Forest Service at Twin Knobs Campground on the Rowan County side of the lake. The area around the lake has become a prime wildlife viewing area especially for bird life. I saw my first adult bald eagle at Cave Run. *Cave Run is also an angler's paradise, and has become known as the Muskie fishing capital of the south.*

Below the dam of the lake is the Minor Clark State Fish Hatchery. It is a prime area for bird watching. As a student at Morehead State University, I assisted Fred Busroe in the early days of his research on the Birds of Minor Clark. What a thrill it was to get to spend numerous hours with one of the best birders in the state of Kentucky. Minor Clark attracts a wide variety of shore birds and waterfowl. It is where I saw my first osprey make a dive for a fish; what a wonderful surprise it was to see it go completely under and then literally fly right up out of the water with a fish in its talons. Near the Ox Bow Lake at the back of the hatchery, Fred and I walked out of a wooded area into an old corn field and were surrounded by 16 great blue herons that took to flight.

Of course you can't talk about the features of the Morehead area without mentioning the university. MSU has always had a strong natural sciences program, and it has trained many of the naturalists that are now members of KSNH. *For the geology fans of the society, make sure to check out the Stigmarian Root System fossil that is on display in front of Lappin Hall. This amazing fossil was found in Laurel County by MSU professors Allen Lake (long time friend and past president of KSNH) and James Chaplain.*

One of the newest additions to the campus of Morehead State is the Space Science Center. This facility includes a Space Mission Operations Center, an Electromagnetic Anechoic Chamber, and facilities for spacecraft development which includes a NanoSatellite Fabrication and Assembly. The showpiece of the facility is the Digital Star Theater, a multipurpose 110 seat digital theater that functions as a classroom and planetarium. The Star Theater projects full 180° x 360° real-time blended video and graphics on a 40' dome screen. We are hoping to have one of our evening meetings in the Star Theater along with a planetarium show. I hope many of you will consider attending the Fall Conference in Morehead, October 19-21st. We should have a full agenda of field trips and programs available by the end of the summer. If any of you are familiar with the natural history of the Morehead area, I would love to hear from you on suggested field trips. I would also love to have several of you step up and offer to lead trips. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or suggestions. I look forward to seeing all of you in October!! Have a great summer!!

Falls of the Ohio Chapter News:

By Chris Bidwell

I want to thank all who made it to the Spring Conference. Everyone I talked to thoroughly enjoyed the talks, walks, socialization and camaraderie. I know most members had been to the areas we visited, but I can say that no matter how many times I've been to a natural setting, I learn something new each time. It's not just the learning, it's being out enjoying nature and the friendship of others who also love nature. Every time I went on, or led, an expedition I found that what I enjoyed most of all was the socialization and the sharing of our experiences and knowledge.

Our 2012 Fall Conference in the Morehead area is being planned now. The dates for this trip are Oct 19, 20, 21. Please make an effort to attend, and enjoy, nature and the fellowship of other nature lovers. A lot of time and hard work goes into these conferences. If you have suggestions or comments, please let me or Jeff Foster know. Thanks for being part of such a great KSNH famil





Notes from the Nature Nut

By: W.H. (Wally) Roberts

"The Exotic Emerald Ash Borer"

The most recent exotic pest, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), has shown up in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as well as close to home in Valley Station, Kentucky. *Although the beetle was discovered in 2002 in the northern United States, evidence suggests that the infestation had been present for about five years prior to its discovery and probably arrived in this country in solid wood packing material.* Human movement of infested nursery stock and firewood allowed it to spread at a rapid rate.

Adult EAB are ½ inch long, elongate, and bright metallic green. After mating, female beetles lay their eggs in bark crevices. Eggs hatch and the small larvae immediately burrow into the bark, feeding on cambial tissue, and later sapwood, as they develop. Larvae over-winter within the sapwood, protected from temperature extremes. They are cream-colored and mature to a length of 1 ½ inch.

Because they feed beneath the bark, larvae are rarely seen. *Larval tunneling beneath the bark destroys the plant vascular system, effectively girdling the stem or branch.* Pupation occurs in the outer sapwood, and adult beetles emerge through exit holes in the trunk and branches. Adults are excellent fliers and are visible on warm, sunny days. Adult beetles live two to three weeks and are present in late May through early July. One generation is produced each year.

Yellowed, thinning foliage, branch dieback, thinning crowns, and excessive suckering are all signs of an EAB infestation. Unusual woodpecker activity is another sign of borers, as the birds readily feed on larvae developing beneath the bark. When one looks closely at the bark, D-shaped emergence holes about 1/8 inch in diameter will be visible where newly developed adults emerged from their pupal chambers. Meandering S-shaped galleries are visible beneath the bark of infested trees; the bark will have to be peeled back to see this sign.

State and federal quarantines are currently in place to prevent movement of this pest. These quarantines restrict the movement of ash trees, branches, logs, and firewood out of infested areas, and also require removal of ash trees within a half-mile radius of an infested tree. The EAB and the federal quarantines designed to prevent its spread undoubtedly pose a threat to the ash species in our forests and have the potential to devastate our urban landscapes.

Treatments for EAB are expensive, and products currently available must be applied every year. In addition, *no products are 100% effective*, and trees in poor health are not likely to benefit from treatment. Treatment usually consists of soil injections from near the tree base to the drip line. Treatments may still be worthwhile to protect very valuable trees or to keep individual trees alive until non-susceptible replacement trees are large enough to provide satisfactory shade. If many nearby trees become heavily infested, control probably will be much less effective.

(Information Obtained From: UK Cooperative Extension Service: Lee Townsend, Extension Entomologist, Lynne Rieske-Kinney, Professor, Forest Entomologist; and Jesse Clark, Merit Insecticide Provider)

A Note from Susan Wilson Regarding Photographs

I want to thank everyone who sent me pictures from the previous conferences and meetings over the past several years. The presentation I showed seemed to be well-received by the members who attended the Spring Conference. The plan is to do the same for the Fall Conference. I want to encourage everyone to send me pictures to share with the Fall Conference group or photos members out in the state would like to include in the presentation. Remember, *there is no longer a contest*, just an opportunity for all to share something or someone out in nature. Man-made objects are no longer excluded. I will accept them up until October 14th, 2012. Photographs that are emailed present best email size (approximately 800 x 600) in JPEG format. If anyone wants to include real photos I have a scanner I can use to convert to digital images and I can return them after scanning. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next conference and hope to be able to include lots of photos for the presentation.



“Nathan’s Little Waterfall”

Photo by Susan Wilson’s grandson Nathan taken at the KSNH fall tree identification hike in Cherokee Park

Big Bluestem Grass – *Andropogon gerardii* (Vitman)

By: Chris Bidwell

Big Bluestem Grass is a tall, warm-season, perennial, native prairie grass in the *Andropogon* (broom-sedge) genus of the Poaceae (grass) plant family. It is a “bunch” – tussock grass meaning that it grows from clumps rather than mats or sod. Big Bluestem is often found growing with other native prairie grasses such as: Little Bluestem (*Schizachtrium scoparium*), Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), and Eastern Gamma grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*). Big Bluestem is a very adaptable grass which does best in well-drained, moist soil in full sun. It is not tolerant of extremely wet areas, deep sands, heavy clays, high salinity, or high lime soils. It is the tallest native grass of the tall grass prairies and it can be found in open woods, meadows, prairies, along riverbanks, and pond sides. It is common throughout Kentucky and hardy in zones 4 – 9.

Big Bluestem can reach up to 10 feet in height. The lower stem has a purplish-bluish color and alternate leaves ½ inch wide and up to 20 inches long. *The flowers, which form in three elongated clusters near the top of the grass, give Big Bluestem one of its common names – turkey foot.* It blooms from June through September. The main roots extend down to 10 feet and short rhizomes are present 1-2 inches beneath the soil surface. Growing in dense clumps, Big Bluestem keeps most other grasses/plants from getting any sun and developing. Established meadows may be entirely covered by this grass alone. *The bunch type growth pattern and Big Bluestem’s deep roots keep the prairie winds from blowing the fertile topsoil away. When settlers began plowing up the Big Bluestem and other prairie grasses there was nothing left to protect the*



topsoil. The 1930's saw a great dust disaster due to such farming practices. Pollination of Big Bluestem is by wind and flying insects. It is an easy grass to get established; however, due to its large size it can become aggressive. It re-sprouts readily following fire from rhizomal growth and deep tap roots. Big Bluestem is good forage for horses and cattle as it has a good protein content of up to 18% and therefore it is often cultivated for pasture grass and hay. It tolerates substantial grazing. However, if it is continually grazed closer than 8 inches, it can be eliminated by other flora. *Big Bluestem is used for pasture/meadow restoration, highway re-vegetation, mine reclamation, logging road restoration, erosion control, and it is used as an ornamental grass to form a border or accent in native plant gardens.*

The caterpillars of several butterfly species, especially skippers, feed on Big Bluestem foliage. Many other insects including grasshoppers, thrips, billbugs, and leafhoppers also utilize Big Bluestem as their main food source. Its seeds are eaten sparingly by several granivorous birds, such as prairie chickens, quail, field sparrows, tree sparrows, and chipping sparrows. Hoofed mammals such as deer, elk, cattle, bison, and other livestock readily eat Big Bluestem foliage. Rodents such as meadow voles and prairie voles as well as several species of shrew and mice also partake of the foliage and seeds. Meadows of Big Bluestem provide a habitat complete with shelter, food, nesting material, and places to hide from predators for many mammals, birds, insects, and snakes. The root of Big Bluestem was used as a diuretic and as a means of easing stomach pains by the Chippewa Indians. Extracts from the leaves were used as a wash for fevers and as an analgesic. Dried Big Bluestem stems were, and can still be, used as support poles for temporary shelters and dwellings. Moistened Big Bluestem was laid on hot stones to prevent heat and steam loss while cooking. *Due to its high biomass, it is currently being considered as a potent food stock for ethanol production.* Your automobile may be Big Bluestem-fueled in the future. It is the state grass of Illinois and Missouri and the official prairie grass of Manitoba. There are no serious diseases in this tall grass native.

Big Bluestem has several common names and many technical binomial names. The common/regional names often cited are turkey foot, turkey claw, blue joint, beard grass, poptillo gigante, Indian warrior, king of the prairie, monarch of the prairie, tall grass, prairie tall grass, and tall bluestem. Other older binomial references to and synonyms for Big Bluestem include *Andropogon furcatus*, *Andropogon tennesseensis*, many *Andropogon* variants/subvariants and sorghum provincial. In Kentucky several other *Andropogon* species are also found: *A. ternaries* (split beard), infrequent; and 2 varieties of *A. virginicus* (broomsedge), frequent. Little Bluestem (96), aka "False Bluestem" or beard grass (also a prairie grass), may be found in with Big Bluestem. *Little Bluestem's name is misleading; it is in a totally different genus, it has a totally different flowering structure, and it only reaches a height of up to 3 feet.* Big Bluestem is in the Poaceae (formerly graminaceae) family of plants. Poa (grass) is derived from the Greek for grass. Many Latin derivations of "poa" can be found in botanical literature. The genus name, *Andropogon*, is derived from Greek, "andro" (meaning "man") and from "pogo" (meaning "beard"), referring to the white-gray awns. Thus *Andropogon* literally is "man with a beard". The species name of Big Bluestem, *gerardii*, is from the name of French biologist John Gerard, aka John Gerarde (1545-1611). *John Gerard in 1597 published a large and heavily illustrated botanical work entitled "Herball, or Generall Historie of Plantes" which was one of the most widely circulated nature books of the late 16th through the 17th centuries. Evidence exists that his botany book was still in use as late as the 19th century.* Linnaeus honored Gerard by naming the genus *Gerardia* in the *Acanthus* family in his name. The *Gerandia* once was used as a generic name for the now genus *Agalinis* (Raf) (false foxgloves). *Agalinis* spp. In the scrophulariaceae (figwort) family has recently been moved to the orobanchaceae (broomrape) family as *Agalinis* spp. Plants are hemiparasitic. Taxonomy – you gotta love it!

Big Bluestem is a beautiful, graceful grass to observe year-round. In areas where it is dominant, the fields take on a glorious brown hue in fall and winter. Many birds can be seen landing on the stems and pecking at the nutritious seeds. The summit atop Iroquois Park in Louisville (one of the flagship Olmsted Parks) has a huge meadow of Big Bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass, and broomsedge. All of these native tall grasses are blended together to give a spectacular display year-round. *Don't just dismiss these tall beauties as "just another grass". Take the time to really examine not just Big Bluestem but all these native grasses for their inherent beauty. Examine Big Bluestem's tiny beautiful flowers and other intricate structures. Learn to fully appreciate the ecological role that Big Bluestem and all our native tall grasses contribute to the natural world.*

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- 13) <http://www.statessymbolsusa.org/site-map-04.html>
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- 15) http://www.statesymbolsusa.org/Illinois/grass_bigbluestem.html
- 16) http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.countrysideinfo.co.uk/grass_id/spike6.j...
- 17) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Gerard
- 18) <http://www.bluestem.ca/andropogon-gerardii.htm>
- 19) http://alabamaplants.com/Grasses/Andropogon_glomeratus_page.html
- 20) http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/Ornamental-GrassesSedgesRushes/2167_Andropogon...
- 21) <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/bigblue.htm>
- 22) http://www.blueplanetbiomese.org/big_bluestem_grass.htm
- 23) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andropogon_gerardii

In Other News:

KSNH member Pat Berla has allowed me to print one of her beautiful Haikus. I found this one perfect for our transition from summer into Fall. Thank you, Pat, for your lovely words.

Crows caw, jays scream.

Mother Earth waits patiently

for her blanket of leaves.

Congratulations to Joyce Bender! She is our 2011 Naturalist of the Year!

JOYCE BENDER
Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission
Chosen as Kentucky's 2011 Naturalist of the Year
Presented by the Kentucky Society of Natural History

Each year, beginning in 1974, the Kentucky Society of Natural History has presented its Kentucky Naturalist of the Year Award to an individual who has made great contributions toward helping the citizens of Kentucky become more aware and appreciative of our State's natural history and biodiversity.

Joyce Bender, our 2011 recipient, has been with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission since 1986 and specializes in land stewardship. Previously, she worked for the Nature Conservancy in Minnesota and Ohio and the DNR in Ohio.

A native Ohioan, Joyce graduated with a BS from Youngstown State University and a MS from the University of Akron. She is past president of the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council, an organization she helped start in 2000 and led until this year. She is the current president of the Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council. In addition, Joyce has made many appearances on KET's "Kentucky Life" and has written numerous articles for "Naturally Kentucky".

Joyce credits her older brother for helping her develop a love of nature when she was young. Botany and birding are her main interests, but geology caught her attention in the fourth grade and held on.

Congratulations to Joyce Bender, Kentucky's 2011 Naturalist of the Year, a much deserving recipient.

KSNH Naturalist of the Year Recipients:

1974 Mary Wharton	1987 Richard Cassell	2000 Carl Cook
1975 Roger Barbour	1988 Marc Evans	2001 John Thieret
1976 Arland Hotchkiss	1989 Wilson Francis	2002 Waldon Roberts
1977 Elwood (Bud) Carr	1990 Julian Campbell	2003 Ron Jones
1978 Margaret Heaslip	1991 Scott Shupe	2004 Guenter Schuster
1979 Harriet Korfhage	1992 Ben Begley	2005 James Kiser
1980 Dallas Wade	1993 Wayne Davis	2006 James & Barbara
1981 Bruce Poundstone	1994 Brainard Palmer-Ball	Conkin
1982 Mary Rogers	1995 Pat Harrigan	2007 Thomas Barnes
1983 John Tierney	1996 Willem Meijer	2008 Dan Dourson
1984 Charlie Covell	1997 Jeff Hohman	2009 Ellis Laudermilk
1985 John MacGregor	1998 Mark Gumbert	2010 Wren Smith
1986 Hugh Archer	1999 Jery & Carol Baskin	2011 Joyce Bender

KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY (KSNH) 2012 NATURAL HISTORY/BIODIVERSITY GRANT RECIPIENTS

The KSNH Grant Committee is proud to announce the following grant recipients for 2012:

KSNH RESEARCH GRANTS

Nicholas Revetta

Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University

“Quantifying Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities and Habitat in a Recently Restored Stream in Eastern Kentucky”

John Yeiser

Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University

“Distribution and Habitat Association of Two Stream Salamanders

(AMBYSTOMA BARBOURI AND EURYCEA CIRRIGERA) Across Multiple Spatial Scales”

ALLEN LAKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly Leona Modaff

Department of Biological Sciences, Morehead State University

“Complete Floristic Inventory for the Glimcher Wetland, MSU Bottomland Swamp Forest Located near Farmers, Kentucky”

Special Request from Wally Roberts, KSNH Grant Committee Coordinator

We were pleased again to be able to give the previously mentioned grants for 2012. Funding often prevents us from fully granting requested research amounts. We thank you for your previous generosity and ask you to consider remembering KSNH in the future. KSNH is a fully non-profit 501-C3 corporation and all donations to the scholarship/grant fund are fully tax deductible under law. Please consider KSNH when planning your memorial and gift giving strategies in the future.

Welcome new KSNH members:

Amy Braccia, Teddie Phillipson and Family

Laura Darnell and Family

Allen Risk

Thank you all for continuing the growth of our society! I welcome any and all of your suggestions for the quarterly newsletter.

The 2012 KSNH Fall Conference:

Chapter president Jeff Foster has received a contract from the Hampton Inn in Morehead for our Fall Conference. The dates are **October 19 – 21, 2012.** The rate they quoted is \$94+tax/night. We have a block of 28 rooms that divide up in the following way.

6 Queen/Queen, non-smoking
18 Kings, non-smoking
1 King, smoking
2 Handicap access Queen/Queen
1 Handicap access King

As it stands now, it is set for individual members to book their own rooms, but they are open to the Society booking as a group also. They have shortened the cut off time for reservation to one week, so members would have till Oct. 12th to make reservations, after that date rooms will be released to other patrons.

**KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY
ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE**

Morehead, Kentucky

October 19 – 21, 2012

- **All times are Eastern Standard Time**
- **All drive times are estimated and for one way, starting from Morehead Hampton Inn.**

Field Trip Ratings:

Easy: Hiking short distances usually on trails or roads with little slope.
Moderate: Generally easy with a comfortable pace. Participants must be able to negotiate occasional steep slope or rough trail.
Strenuous: More endurance required to negotiate longer stretches of steep slopes and rough trail.

Friday, October 19, 2012

5:30 Registration (lobby of the Hampton)

6:30 Evening Program (Hampton Inn)

Welcome and Introductions – Jeff Foster

Children's Program Topics – Daniel Foster

Research Grant Presentation – “Forest Dynamics of Two Multi-Aged Hemlock Mixed-Mesophytic Forests”
– A study of the pre Hemlock Woolly Adelgid conditions of two forests in Eastern Kentucky - **Kacie Tackett**

Preview of Saturday's Field Trips – Various leaders

8:45 Walking Tour of the MSU Space Science Center – MSU's Space Science Center is a \$16 million, 45,000sq.ft. building with state of the art laboratories that include an electromagnetic anechoic chamber, a space systems development lab, a class 10,000/1,000 clean room for spacecraft assembly and integration, a spacecraft verification lab, an astrophysics lab, and a 21-meter space tracking antennae. Partnered with numerous other universities and agencies the center is emerging as an important center for research in nanosatellite technologies.

9:40 – 10:30 Planetarium Show in the Star Theater

Saturday, October 20, 2012 (there may be additional field trip options)

Full Day Trip

9:00 – 5:00 Geology of Carter Caves State Resort Park – This trip can be a full day, a morning trip, or an afternoon trip. The morning will feature a hike on the Three Bridges Trail (0.5 mile) and will pass over Smokey Bridge, Raven Bridge, and Fern Bridge. Those wishing to continue their day at Carter Caves can eat at the lodge and then head out on either the Natural Bridge Trail (0.5 mile) or the Box Canyon Trail.

Drive Time – 35 minutes Rating – easy

Trip Leader – Berl Meyer

Morning Field Trips

9:00 – 12:00 Birding Trip to Minor Clark Fish Hatchery – The Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery near Cave Run Lake is operated by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. This state fish hatchery is one of the largest warm-water fish

hatcheries in the nation. There are over 100 ponds that attract a wide variety of bird life. We will drive the hatchery roads around the ponds and near the Licking River looking for early winter migrating waterfowl, resident bald eagles, and year-round Kentucky birds. Radios will be provided so we can remain in contact when birds are sighted.

Drive Time – 30 minutes Rating – easy

Trip Leader – Wally Roberts

9:00 – 12:00 Morehead State University Environmental Education –April Haight, Director of The MSU Center for Environmental Education will lead this trip to their outdoor classroom & native tree walk. The area is used for a variety of courses, teacher preparation workshops, pre-service workshops, and as a 'hanging out' area. The area started out with a small dry prairie plant area. It now has rain garden, native plant hummingbird/butterfly garden, feeders, 12 native trees and shrubs, solar panels, rain barrel, rock garden, and other educational features. The Center is also involved with the Triplett Creek Watershed Planning process. If time permits and the project is far enough along, we will visit one of the stream bank restoration sites. Be sure and check out the huge fossil of a Stigmarian root system, discovered by KSNH member Allen Lake that is on display in front of Lappin Hall.

Drive Time – 10 minutes Rating – easy

Trip Leader – April Haight

9:00 – 12:00 Carter Caves Morning Option: See above

Drive Time – 35 minutes

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch: On your own

Afternoon Field Trips

1:00 – 5:00 Mussel Collecting Trip to the Licking River – The Licking River is one of the best rivers in the state for mussel habitat and is home to 53 species of mussels. We should see approximately 18 - 20 species of mussels. May require waders and/or wading shoes and is not limited to adults!

Drive Time – 30 minutes Rating – easy

Trip Leader – Monte MacGregor

1:00 – 5:00 Eagle Lake Trail: Morehead State University – Join MSU Professor of Biology, Dr. Brian Reeder, on a campus walk to MSU's Eagle Lake. First we will talk about the importance of E. Lucy Braun to our understanding of the mixed-mesophytic forests of Kentucky. Our knowledge of forest development was expanded by looking at pollen in lake mud to disprove Lucy's hypothesis. We will then hike around the rebuilt trail that follows the forest edge of Eagle Lake. We will identify and discuss the forest trees, and learn about the ecology of Eagle Lake reservoir. If we are lucky, we may sight the dreaded Eagle Lake Monster.

Drive Time: 10 minutes Rating: Moderate

Leader: Dr. Brian Reeder

1:00 – 5:00 Carter Caves Afternoon Option: See above, meet at visitor center.

Drive Time – 35 minutes Rating – easy

Trip Leader – Berl Meyer

5:00 Dinner: On Your Own

7:00 Evening Program (Hampton Inn)

Welcome and Review of Field Trips – Jeff Foster

Children's Program Awards – Daniel Foster

General Business Meeting – Jeff Foster

Featured Presentation – “Natural History, Conservation, Protection, and Enhancement of the Most Endangered Group of Animals in North America: The Facinating Freshwater Mussel in its Old Kentucky Riverine Home” – **Monte A. McGregor, PhD. Aquatic Scientist / Malacologist, Center for Mollusk Conservation, Ky. Fish & Wildlife Resources**

Presentation of KSNH Naturalist of the Year Award

Photography Presentation – Susan Wilson

General Topics – Open to All

Door Prizes

Sunday, April 21, 2012

7:00AM **Board Meeting at Hampton Inn – All board members are encouraged to attend.**

9:00 – 12:00 **Field Trip:** *I do not have a set destination at this time. I am checking out at least three different sites. Possibilities are Lockege Rock, Twin Knobs overlook, or Clear Creek Iron Furnace. I want to hike the areas prior to the conference and then decide which one to visit.*
Leader: Jeff Foster

The Kentucky Society of Natural History would like to thank the following field trip leaders/speakers and their respective employers.

Monte McGregor	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Berl Meyer	Kentucky Society of Natural History
Wally Roberts	Kentucky Society of Natural History
April Haight	Morehead State University
Dr. Brian Reeder	Morehead State University
Kacie Tackett	Eastern Kentucky University

Thanks for attending Kentucky Society of Natural History's Fall Conference and mark your calendars for the **Spring Conference at Pine Mountain State Resort Park on April 26 – 28th, 2013!!**

Membership Renewal:

It is, once again, the time of year to get caught up with membership dues for the Kentucky Society of Natural History. Please keep in mind that a portion of these dues is used to fund scholarships for students in our universities. Your membership is critical in preserving our mission. We value your past support and hope that you will renew. We understand that these hard times have made it more difficult for you to decide where to spend your hard-earned dollars.

We have been able to keep our dues low because of our e-newsletter. Your email is important to us in order to keep you current on important information regarding the Society. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by email at treasurer@ksnh.org or by phone (502) 368-4378.

Dues are as follows:

Family	\$25	Individual	\$15
Full-Time Student	\$7.50	Life	\$300

You may visit our website (<http://www.ksnh.org/>) and pay dues using PayPal on your own credit card. You may also send a check to KY Society of Natural History, P.O. Box 883, Fairdale, KY 40118. Please make your check payable to KSNH. Payment by April 1, 2012 would be greatly appreciated.



Kentucky Naturalist News

Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Society of Natural History

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Officers

President: Jeff Foster (jfooster@sscc.edu)
Vice President: Chris Bidwell (mach5049@gmail.com)
Secretary: Margie Conard (acting) (km.conard@insightbb.com)
Treasurer: Pat Meyer (treasurer@ksnh.org)
Newsletter Editor: Dave Luzader (dluzader@insightbb.com)
Past President: Zeb Weese
Webmaster: Dave Luzader (webmaster@ksnh.org)

Coordinators

Environmental Ed.: Larry Hilton (l.hilton@insightbb.com)
Field Trips: James Kiser (james.kiser@stantec.com)
Grants: Wally Roberts (wadonroberts@bellsouth.net)
Herpetology: John MacGregor (john.macgregor@ky.gov)
Hospitality: Cynthia Payne (cpayne_ksnh@yahoo.com)
Mammalogy: Mark Gumbert
 (mwgumbert@copperheadconsulting.com)
Naturalist of the Year: Wally Roberts / Joe Settles
Nature Photography: Susan Wilson (susanfltrn@yahoo.com)
Youth Activities: Daniel Foster (daniel.foster@fairfield.k12.oh.us)

Board Members at Large

Berl Meyer (geology@ksnh.org)
 Pat Molloy

Affiliated Chapters

Arches of the Cumberland (Slade, Ky)

Meets informally, call President Dell Sasser for details, 606-666-7521 ext. 73559, or 606-233-8938. Email: del.sasser@kttc.edu

Falls of the Ohio (Louisville, Ky)

Meets every third Thursday of each month except Jan, Jul, Aug & Dec at the Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave. Call President Chris Bidwell at 502-458-1328 or email: mach5049@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.ksnh.org>

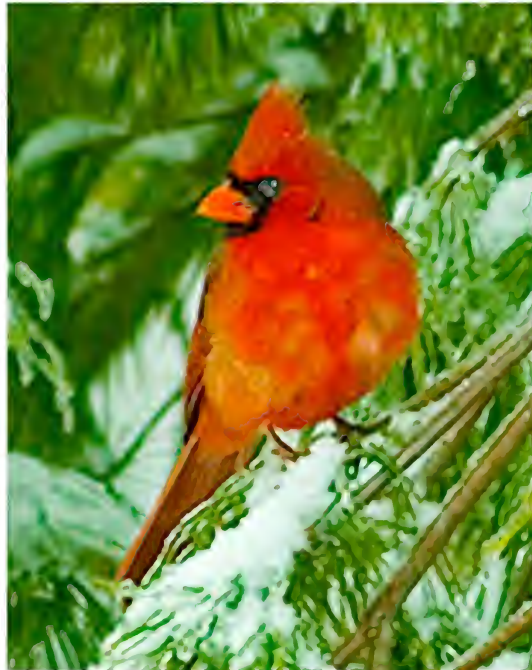


Photo by Dave Luzader

Editor's Notes

I want thank Gretchen Fitzgerald for her efforts to produce this newsletter. She stepped forward at a time when we needed someone to take over as newsletter editor. Unfortunately, because of time constraints of working two jobs, she could not continue and felt it best to turn over the task to someone else.

I will be taking over as newsletter editor for the foreseeable future. As newsletter editor I hope to continue upgrading the look and quality of our newsletter. Our newsletters have and will continue to be a valuable resource for information about nature in Kentucky.

Dave Luzader

A Note from the President

Winter greetings to all my KSNH friends and family!! I hope all of you had a wondrous holiday season and are having a happy and peaceful New Year. As the bitter cold winds and temperatures of winter descend on us, my mind and body longs for the warmth and beauty of the spring. It will not be long before the first buds of spring being to appear. Soon the Harbinger-of-Spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*), hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*), and snow trilliums (*Trillium nivale*) will be making their grand appearance.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Kentucky Society of Natural History, and we are hoping to have great attendance at all of this year's events. Special commemorative pins and shirts will be available at each event, to mark the anniversary. Our Spring Conference will take us to a long time KSNH favorite destination, Pine Mountain State Resort Park. Several members have been hard at work planning this springs conference and it looks like it will be a great weekend. Friday evening's meeting will feature Dean Henson, Pine Mountain State Park Naturalist. Dean always does an incredible job welcoming us to the park and has been a supporter of KSNH for many years. Saturday evening Marc Evans will be speaking to us on "The Wonders of Pine Mountain". Several great field trips are being organized for Saturday. Pine Mountain is always beautiful in the spring, please make sure and mark your calendars for April 26-28 and get registered early.

For this fall's conference we will return to Shawnee State Resort Park here in southern Ohio. Nestled in the Shawnee State Forest, Shawnee Lodge is one of the show pieces of the Ohio State Park system. Shawnee State Forest has earned the nickname of "The Little Smokies" and is beautiful during fall color season. Many of our field trips will visit the natural areas of Adams County, Ohio (my home). Adams County currently has close to 20,000 acres of nature preserves, including the famous Edge of Appalachia Preserve of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and The Nature Conservancy.

In closing, I would like to dedicate this article and my efforts as President of KSNH this anniversary year, to the memory of Allen and Betty Lake. Allen and Betty were long time members of KSNH and had served the Society in numerous ways. I first met them in 1980, when started my studies at Morehead State University. In the summer of 1983, Becky and I took care of their house and pets when they traveled to California for the birth of their first granddaughter. Needless to say, this started a long and close relationship between us. It was Allen and Betty that first invited us to attend that first KSNH Conference. Daniel and Adam considered them another set of grandparents, and I believe Allen and Betty felt the same way. No other individual person, after my mother and

father, has had a greater effect on my life than these two wonderful people did. They will be dearly missed, and I only hope that I can lead this wonderful organization in a way that would make them both very proud. After Allen's passing in 2011 we established the Allen Lake Memorial Scholarship, now with the passing of Betty this past year, I propose it become the Lake Memorial Scholarship. I would urge any of you who knew Allen and Betty, and the service they provided to KSNH, to honor their memory with a donation.

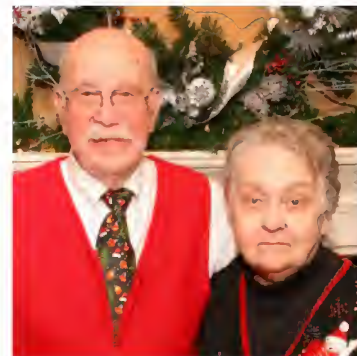
In Loving Memory

Allen L. Lake

1924-2011

Betty P. Lake

1927-2012



Winter Finch Irruptions Coming Your Way

by Pat Meyer

Cornell's Lab of Ornithology has recently released Ron Pittaway's winter predictions on finch irruptions from as far north as Canada. This is because cone crops are poor in many areas. When this happens the birds "irrupt" southward until they can find good sources of the food they need.



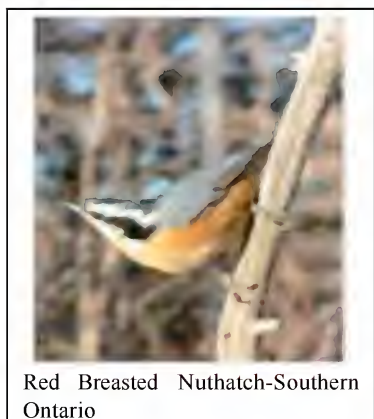
Male Pine Siskin Raymond Lee

Several of these species of birds are already showing up at feeders here in Kentucky (October 20). The Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) is a migratory bird with an extremely sporadic winter range that is unpredictable. Generally they are small nondescript birds that are rather small 4.3-5.5 inches. The males will have patches of yellow that peek out from their wings and backs.

They will eat thistle seed from the same feeder as the American Goldfinch and mingle with them, so you will need to keep a sharp eye out for them.

The American Goldfinch as you know loses most of its distinctive bright yellow during the winter and are mostly grayish. Pine Siskins prefer pine & evergreen seeds as well as sunflower seed as well as seed from weeds. It's very important that you leave some flower seeds, such as coneflowers, in your garden for over-wintering birds, so don't be so fast to clean it up.

We have lots of siskins at our home in South Central Colorado during the summertime, and I love hearing their little wheezy twitters especially the peeps which are so distinctive they make while feeding. It's kind of drawn out and has an ascending tone to it.



Red Breasted Nuthatch-Southern Ontario

This little guy I just love. The Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) is only 4.5 inches. It is already being reported in Kentucky in mid-October. They are smaller than the White Breasted Nuthatch that we generally see during the summer in Kentucky although White Breasted Nuthatches are also present here during the winter.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a small bundle of energy and many times you will see them with other nuthatches and chickadees, as well as kinglets. You will see them mostly on tree trunks checking out the bark for hidden insects. It can be found in a variety of habitats. You will usually hear them before you see them, with an excitable nasal yank-yank call that sounds like tiny tin horns being honked in the treetops.

The name "Nut hatch" comes from their habit of wedging a nut into a crevice of a tree and then cracking the nut open. They will also do this with food from the back yard bird feeder-taking their food to a nearby tree where they wedge it into a cavity, then pecking at the food to open it.

Okay...so you probably won't see this bird here anymore, but I remember Evening Grosbeaks coming to our platform feeders in Valley Station, Kentucky many years ago. My young son (at that time) asked me what were yellow birds as large as Robins. This is before I really knew very much about birds, so I told him there weren't any birds like that. Then I saw them for myself, and was amazed at their beauty! I still get to see them, though not in Kentucky. They come to our Colorado feeders in droves because they always travel in flocks.



Female & Male Evening Grosbeaks-Wild Birds Unlimited

The Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) is a spectacular grosbeak and is ABA's Bird of the Year for 2012. They feed on the ground as well as on platform feeders and love black oil sunflower seeds



Winged Crossbill by Chris Wood

The White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) has not been reported yet in Kentucky on the KYbird list serve. I remember a flock of them being reported in Lexington at the Lexington Cemetery a year or two ago. It's another nomadic bird traveling large distances tracking the cone crop from place to place. It's a medium-sized finch of the boreal forest, and its bill is adapted for extracting seeds from the cones of coniferous trees.

Wing-winged Crossbills are a far northern species, typically found in boreal forests. They are found in large flocks year round. Their bills are adapted for removing seeds from cones, starting from the bottom and moving up. They can eat up to 3,000 seeds a day.

We always have a few of these birds (Purple Finches) at our home here in Kentucky, and I love seeing them as they are not common.

The Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus*) has already been reported in Kentucky during mid-October, so it's likely you may see this bird. Roger Tory Peterson described it as a "sparrow dipped in raspberry juice." If you will remember this description, you will not confuse it with the House Finch, which is a common bird for us to see.



Male Purple Finch by Elizabeth Jean Allen

Purple Finches are large and chunky. Their powerful, conical beaks are larger than any sparrow's. The tail seems short and is clearly notched at the tip. Females are coarsely streaked below, with strong facial markings including a whitish eyestripe and a dark line down the side of the throat.

I would be remiss if I did not tell you about eBird, and how you can contribute as a citizen scientist. It is jointly coordinated by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology & the National Audubon Society.

A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales. By maximizing the utility and accessibility of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers, eBird is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. The observations of each participant join those of others in an international network of eBird users. eBird then shares these observations with a global community of educators, land managers, ornithologists, and conservation biologists. eBird documents the presence or absence of species, as well as bird abundance through checklist data. A birder simply enters when, where, and how they went birding, then fills out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the outing. Local experts review unusual records. All eBird data are stored in a secure facility and archived daily, and are accessible to anyone. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu> and click on eBird.

References- websites: Pacific Northwest Birds, All About Birds-Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and National Geographic

NOTES FROM THE NATURE NUT

By

W. H. (Wally) Roberts

Fall/Winter 2012-2013

The Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are probably my favorite birds, but I only get to see them for about two weeks around the beginning of May. At that time, they are returning to their nesting grounds in Canada from South America. The males are in full breeding plumage, singing loudly, and are easily seen around platform feeders.

Their cousin the Evening Grosbeak, only appears occasionally in Kentucky during special winters when their numbers seem to explode. The last time large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were observed in Kentucky occurred more than twenty years ago. This winter may be one of those special explosions.

Evening Grosbeaks usually stay in southern Canada or the northern United States during winter and seldom come south of the Ohio River. Birders, however, have already reported unusually large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks in northern Ohio. This may be related to widespread crop failures of fruiting and cone bearing trees in Canada, especially Ontario. Also, other large numbers of normally northern species such as Red-breasted Nuthatches have already moved through Kentucky this fall.

During winter, Evening Grosbeaks occur in flocks and noisily make calls similar to a group of House Sparrows. Their colors are particularly striking, reminding many people of giant Goldfinches. The white and black patches on their wings, the bright yellow on the males, and their large whitened conical bills are all easily seen as the birds are not generally frightened by human presence. Like all grosbeaks, they have bills that are well adapted to feeding on seeds and are even strong enough to crack cherry pits. They are strict vegetarians in winter, feed in large flocks, and are belligerent to other birds. They prefer sunflower seeds and platform feeders over tube feeders.

Unfortunately, the winters in which Evening Grosbeaks flock to Kentucky are likely to be severe. They are attracted to salt and are often times seen on the edges of roadways after snow plows have passed.

The Evening Grosbeaks are large and beautiful birds and, if they find your feeders, they consume large quantities of sunflower seeds and tend to stay until spring. Hopefully this is our year to enjoy their beauty.

References: Beckham Bird Club Newsletter November 2012; Fred Alsop's "Birds of the Smokies"; Ron Pittaway birds.cornell.edu (click on eBird)

WANTED: INFORMATION ON KENTUCKY BARN OWLS

KDFWR is conducting a statewide inventory of barn owl nests this spring to expand research on this rare species. Barn owls remain quite uncommon in Kentucky despite a large amount of suitable habitat. Currently, there are only about 25 documented nesting locations statewide. Nongame bird biologists would like to expand Kentucky's nest inventory in hopes to better understand the reasons for decline in this species.

Barn owls have a whitish face and breast with no ear tufts. They do not "hoot" like some owl species. Instead they "screech" and "hiss". They prefer open habitat such as hayfields and pasture and are usually not found in the woods. Barn owls can nest year-round in Kentucky, though most of the nesting activity occurs from March-August. Although they often nest in hollow trees, barn owls also regularly nest in some very strange places including silos, grain bins, chimneys, hay lofts, attics, and shooting houses.

If you know of a barn owl nest please contact Kate Heyden, KDFWR at (502)564-3400 x 4475 or kathryn.heyden@ky.gov. For the protection of owls and landowners, exact nesting locations and landowner information for barn owl nests is strictly confidential and will not be released to the public.



Photo by: KDFWR

KDFWR is also collecting barn owl specimens to test for possible causes of decline. Fresh specimens are preferred, but slightly decomposed specimens are still useful. Even if the cause of death is obvious (e.g. collision with vehicle) the specimen is still useful. Please notify KDFWR at the contact above if you find a dead barn owl so that it may be used for research. To be clear, it is not illegal to pick up a migratory bird carcass with the intentions of getting it to a federally permitted researcher/agency as soon as possible. However, it is illegal to keep a protected bird carcass for your own personal use.

More info on Kentucky barn owls can be found at:

<http://fw.ky.gov/barnowls.asp>

Welcome New KSNH Members

Teddie Phillipson Family	FO
The Linda Darnell Family	FO
The John & April Haight Family	State
The Scott Hankla Family	FO
Frances Aprile	FO
The Ellen Snow Family	State

KSNH wishes to extend their condolences to the following members on the passing of their loved ones.

Collette, Betsy, and Dr. David Sangster on the death of Collete's husband, and Betsy's and David's father, James Sangster on November 10.

Richard Cassell's mother, Ruth Cassell, passed on December 14.

Margarette Perkins' mother, Lucille Wright, passed on January 4.

Renew your Membership Dues for 2013

Your membership dues for the Kentucky Society of Natural History are payable in January, unless you are a new member and joined in October or after. Please keep in mind that a portion of these dues is used to fund our grant program for students in Kentucky universities. Your membership is critical in preserving our mission. We appreciate your past support and hope that you will again decide to renew your membership.

The Kentucky Society of Natural History is an official 501(c) (3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization which was formed in 1939, and incorporated in 1943 in Louisville, Kentucky. All contributions to the Kentucky Society of Natural History are tax-deductible to the full extent of federal and state income tax laws.

Visit our website (www.ksnh.org) for the mail-in membership form or use the one on the newsletter. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 883, Fairdale, KY 40118-0883. You may also pay through the convenient and secure online form which allows you to pay via PayPal or your credit card. Make your checks payable to KSNH.

Membership dues are: Individual \$15, Family \$25, Full-Time Student \$7.50, Lifetime: \$300.

We have been able to keep our dues low because of our e-newsletters. Please provide a current email address. **Your email is important to us** in order to keep you current on important information regarding the Society. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me (Pat Meyer, State Treasurer) by email at treasurer@ksnh.org or by phone (502)368-4378.

If you are a Falls of the Ohio Chapter member, you may pay Treasurer Cynthia Payne at the meeting, or mail to 9109 Hawthorne Pointe Dr., Louisville, KY 40272.

All new memberships include our Kentucky Naturalist News e-newsletter.

KSNH Conference at Pine Mountain State Resort Park

April 26 – 28, 2013

Please go to our website to get the Registration Form

<http://www.ksnh.org>

Falls of the Ohio Chapter

Here is the 2013 lineup so far for this year. As always, there will be some tweeks but this is what's up so far.

Thursday, February 21st meeting Dr Sarah Emery, Assistant Professor of Biology at U/L will speak on "Sand Dune Biology/Ecology"

Saturday, February 23rd outing, The ever popular lunch noon at Mike Linnig's

Thursday, March 21st meeting Travis Brown, ecologist for Echo Tech Consultants, Inc. naturalist, photographer and author of "Pocket Guide to Eastern Streams" will speak on "Reptile and Amphibians of Louisville"

Saturday, March 16th (note date is prior to meeting on Thursday), outing will be to Mammoth Cave National Park new visitor center, trip leader will be Berl Meyer. Details will follow on this outing.

Saturday, March 30th, *Extra Outing*, Picnic and outing Lake Patoka at Margie and Ken's place.

Thursday, April 18th meeting Dick Dennis will show movie "Green Fire". Per Mr. Dennis, this movie is an award winning documentary exploring the life, legacy and continuing impact of 20th Century conservationist Aldo Leopold. Leopold authored the environmental classic "A Sand County Almanac", founded the Wilderness Society, championed an ecological conscience he called the "land ethic", and is a favorite of Kentucky's own Wendell Berry. Leopold's prose is lyrical, scientific, picturesque and poignant, and is studied in college English literature classes as well as environmental courses. The film's title references an incident in Leopold's early career that changed his entire way of looking at nature.

April outing info to follow.

Tx Chris Bidwell

Also,

Chris, Mary Alice and I are going to the Smokies on April 3-6. We will be working on securing a place for the upcoming Spring 2014 conference there as well as some fun time. Anyone would be welcome to join us while we are there. We will be staying at Carr's Cottages and Cabins in Gatlinburg. It is a clean, relatively inexpensive place to stay in Gatlinburg. Call or email Chris if anyone would be interested in meeting up with us while we are there.

Our new 75th Anniversary Pin

by Berl Meyer



Little did anybody know that our 75th Kentucky Society of Natural History Anniversary is upon us.

In celebration of this event, I have created a new lapel pin to be offered very soon to our members.

It is based on our long standing logo which my sister, Judith Meyer, created ages ago. For those who are not familiar with the design, it has most of Kentucky's State nature symbols in it:

Our State Bird the Cardinal	Our State Rock Limestone
Our State Wildflower the Goldenrod	Our State Fossil the Brachiopod
Our State Butterfly the Viceroy	Our State Tree the Tulip Poplar
Our State Mammal the Grey Squirrel	

Our slogan was created by Richard Cassel "We always show our good nature." "Celebrating 75 years of Kentucky's good nature," encircling our logo appears to best honor his words as well as this important event. There will also be wearing apparel to celebrate the occasion.

The Kentucky Society of Natural History was founded by a group of University of Louisville professors and the few other nature groups that were in the Louisville area around 1937. They originally met at the U of L campus and for several years there after. Our group incorporated June 4, 1943 as the Kentucky Society of Natural History.

Our last charter member, Evelyn Slack, passed away a few years ago but we still have members that date back to the late 50's.

We plan to give each member who registers at our spring conference at Pine Mountain Resort Park one of these pins free. If you would like to have one before hand, we will have them available at the Falls of the Ohio meetings, and at the annual dinner for the cost of \$5.00. The proceeds of the pins will go towards our KSNH scholarships.



Also, we have the new 75th anniversary t-shirt available as well pictured at the left. The cost on these will be \$12.75 (the 75 cents is for the neat state sales tax).



Our original logo

2013 – Kentucky Natural History Society is celebrating 75 years of existence. Mary Alice, myself, and Susan Wilson have been part of this wonderful organization for only about 10 years. It has been 10 of the best nature experiences ever for us. We have been blessed to have “stumbled” onto such a group of knowledgeable nature-loving people. Looking back, it has mainly been the character/people of KSNH that have kept our desire to belong and participate in KSNH.

Our society is facing what a lot of groups are experiencing – loss of members due to age, illness, family matters, new interests, disinterest, or just plain burn out. I am optimistic that our group can continue and attract new (younger/older) members, retain present members, and reach out to those who are teetering on joining or leaving.

We can attract new members by word of mouth, newspaper announcements, our great website, and personal actions/behaviors. Keep a positive attitude. Make new members feel welcome – introduce yourself personally and help these new folks to be aware of our events and conferences. Relate happy/funny/startling experiences to them. If you know a member has a specific nature interest, get them involved – maybe leading a field trip or give a lecture to the group. I look to recruit our members for such activities. Getting involved makes you feel much more part of a group.

The New Year is here. Let's be positive. Recruit new folks. If you know of a member who needs a ride to our functions, offer them assistance. 2013 is looking great for lectures, speakers, and conferences. Glad to be part of such a great organization. As always, if you have concerns, comments, or advice please feel free to contact me at 502-896-4834 or mach5049@gmail.com

Chris Bidwell



KSNH Naturalist of the Year 2012, Monte A. McGregor, PhD

Presented at the Fall 2012 Conference

KSNH SPRING CONFERENCE 2013

Pine Mountain State Resort Park

April 26, 27, 28th, 2013

Pine Mountain State Resort Park (800-325-1712) is located in Pineville, Ky. All field trips unless otherwise noted, begin at the Herndon J Evans Lodge.

AGENDA

Friday, April 26

Early Birds: 2pm Berl Meyer, Geologist, will lead a carpool trip to see Pennsylvanian Period plant remains (fossilized tree roots), along Hwy 119. **Rated - Easy**

Registration 5pm and 7pm, Evans Lodge/Ray Harm Room

Evening Program – Ray Harm Room

7:30pm Welcome – Introduction – Overview of conference, Jeff Foster, President KSNH

Children's Program – Daniel Foster

8:00pm Dean Henson, Naturalist of PMSRP – will speak on "Natural World of Pine Mountain"

9:00pm Susan Wilson, KSNH Photography Coordinator – KSNH Photos

Saturday, April 27

9am – 4pm Berl Meyer, Geologist/KSNH Board Member at Large, will lead a carpool trip to Cumberland Gap, KY and then Lincoln University, Harrogate, TN. **Rated – Easy**

9am – 4pm Marc Evans, Senior Ecologist retired from KSNPC, co-editor of Kentucky's Natural Heritage, co-author Rare Wildflowers of Kentucky and Landscape Restoration Handbook, will lead a carpool trip to Blanton Forest. **Rated – Moderate +**

9am – 12pm Dr. Tom Barnes Ph.D. Extension Professor of Forest and Wildlife Species at Department of Forestry, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, author of Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky, Rare Wildflowers of Kentucky, Kentucky's Last Great Places and several other books, will lead a wildflower hike at PMSRP. **Rated – Easy to Moderate**

12pm – 1pm **Lunch on your own.** Some good food options are at PMSRP Lodge and many restaurants at Pineville, Middlesboro (Cracker Barrel/Ryans) and Harrogate, TN. (Hardees).

Afternoon Field Trips

1:30 – 4pm Participants can meet Berl Meyer at Cracker Barrel in Middlesboro and then carpool to Lincoln University. **Rated – Easy**

1:30 – 4pm Cumberland Gap Visitors Center, Gap Cave Tour. **LIMIT 15 PEOPLE!!** Call now to reserve a spot 606-248-2817. Adults \$8.00, Children 5-12 \$4.00. Go to website for more details: Guided Tours – Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. **Rated – Moderate to Strenuous**

1:30 – 4pm Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Visitors Center, Ranger/Naturalist Scott Teodorski will lead a wildflower hike at the gap. **Rated – Easy to Moderate**

For you freelancers- Pine Mountain SRP has 14 trails from 0.2 to 1.9 miles long varying from easy to strenuous in difficulty. Maps are available at the lodge desk.

4:00 – 7pm Dinner on your own. Same recommendations as lunch.

Evening Program – Ray Harm Room

7:30pm Jeff Foster, President KSNH, will lead a recap of the field trips.

Children's Program Awards

Marc Evans – will present "The Wonders of Pine Mountain"

Door Prizes!

Sunday April 28

9:00 – 11am Chris Bidwell, Vice President KSNH/President of the Falls of the Ohio Chapter KSNH and Susan Wilson, KSNH Photography Coordinator will lead a stroll up the scenic Crooked Creek Trail. Wildflowers, flora and some history will be discussed. **Rated – Easy**

Remember

Bring your green KSNH I.D wallets.

Bring your camera, binoculars, water, proper footwear on field trips.

Most field trip events will address varied nature topics - Be prepared for fun and facts!

For any questions, comments or concerns contact Jeff Foster: jfoster@sscc.edu or Chris Bidwell: 502-

894-4834 or email: mach5049@gmail.com

The Kentucky Society of Natural History would like to thank the following speakers/trip leaders for their help:

Berl Meyer	Kentucky Society of Natural History
Dean Henson	Pine Mountain State Resort Park
Dr. Tom Barnes	University of Kentucky
Marc Evans	Ecologist
Scott Teodorski	Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
Susan Wilson	Kentucky Society of Natural History
Chris Bidwell	Kentucky Society of Natural History

Thanks for attending the KSNH Spring Conference. Mark your calendars for the Fall Conference at Shawnee State Park, Portsmouth, OH, October 17, 18, 19, 20th, 2013.